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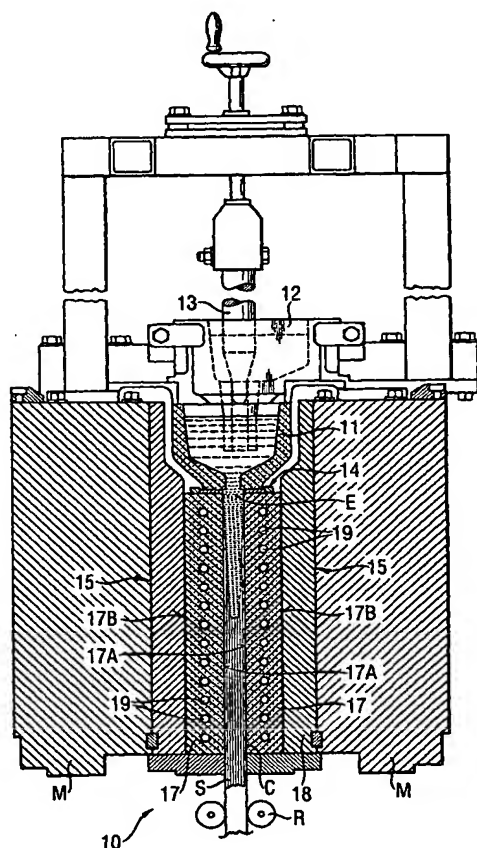
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR CONTINUOUS CASTING OF METAL STRIPS



(57) Abstract: Apparatus for continuous vertical casting of metal strips, comprising: a mould (10) having top and bottom ends an open-ended mould cavity (C), a tundish (11) having a discharge opening (11A) in direct communication with the mould cavity (C) to feed molten metal into a mould entrance opening (E) past an interface between the tundish (11) and the mould (10); a sealing device (14) forming a seal at said tundish-mould interface to prevent molten metal from entering said interface, and a device (12) for supplying molten metal to the tundish (11) and maintaining a level of molten metal therein. The sealing device (14) comprises a pair of flat horizontal surfaces (10A, 11B), one on the mould around the entrance opening (E) and one on the tundish (10) around the discharge opening (11A), and a sealing element (14A) formed of a sheet of graphite and being in constant sealing engagement with both said surfaces (10A, 11B).

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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

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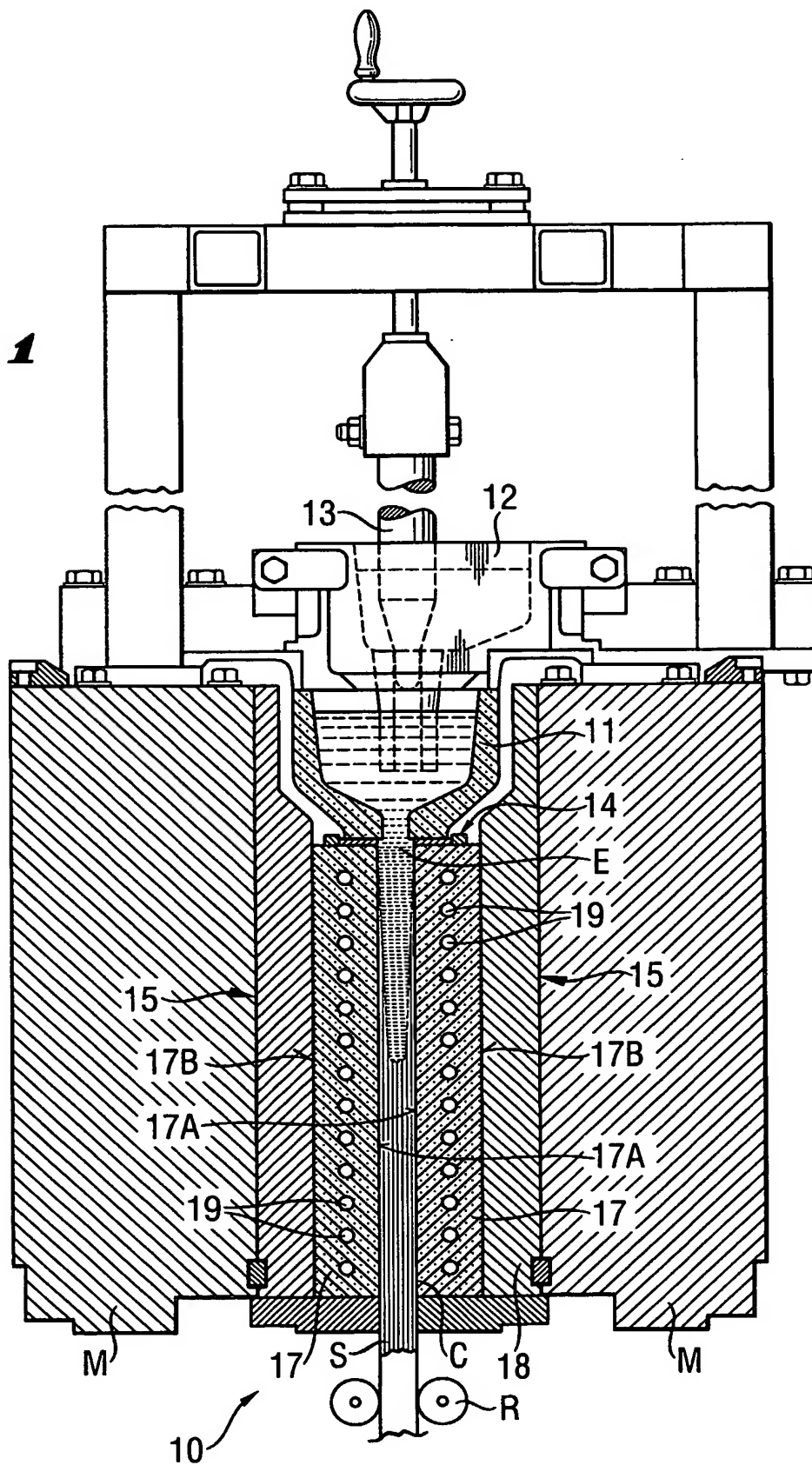
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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Fig. 1

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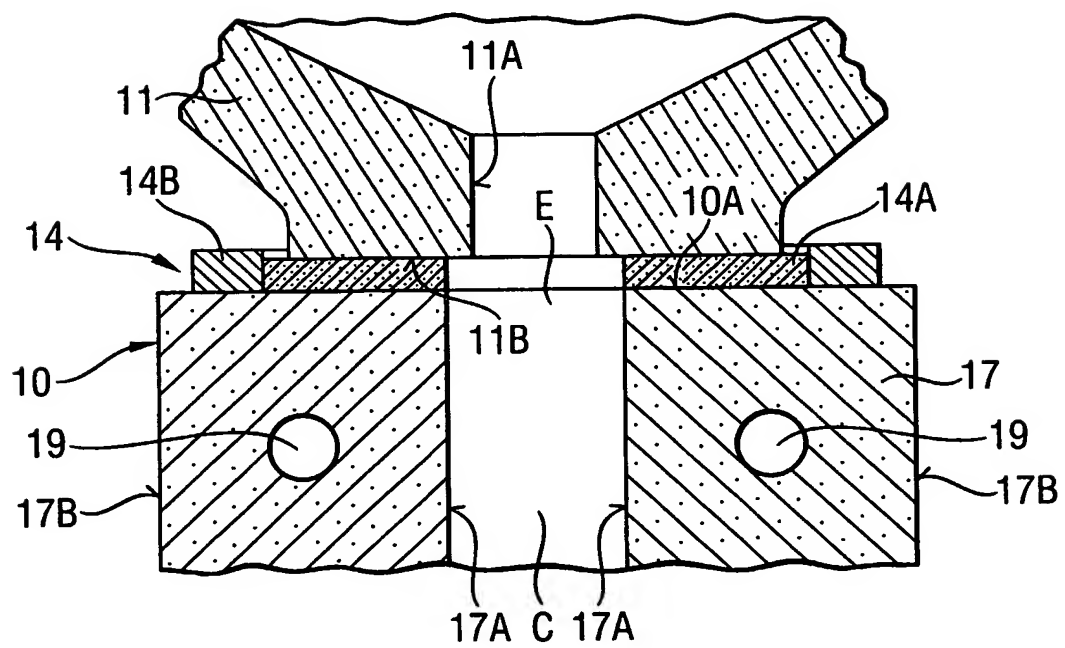
Fig. 1A

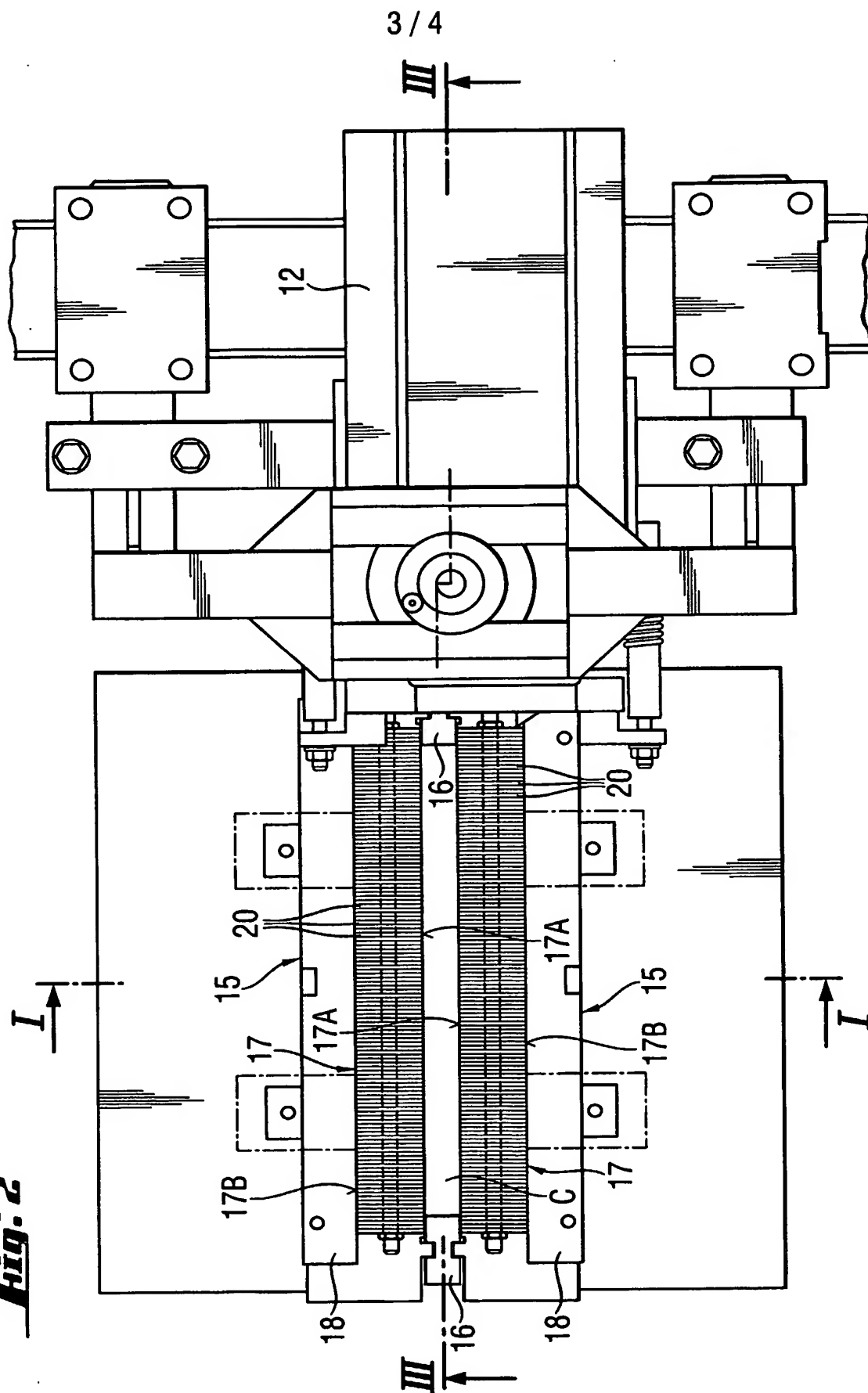
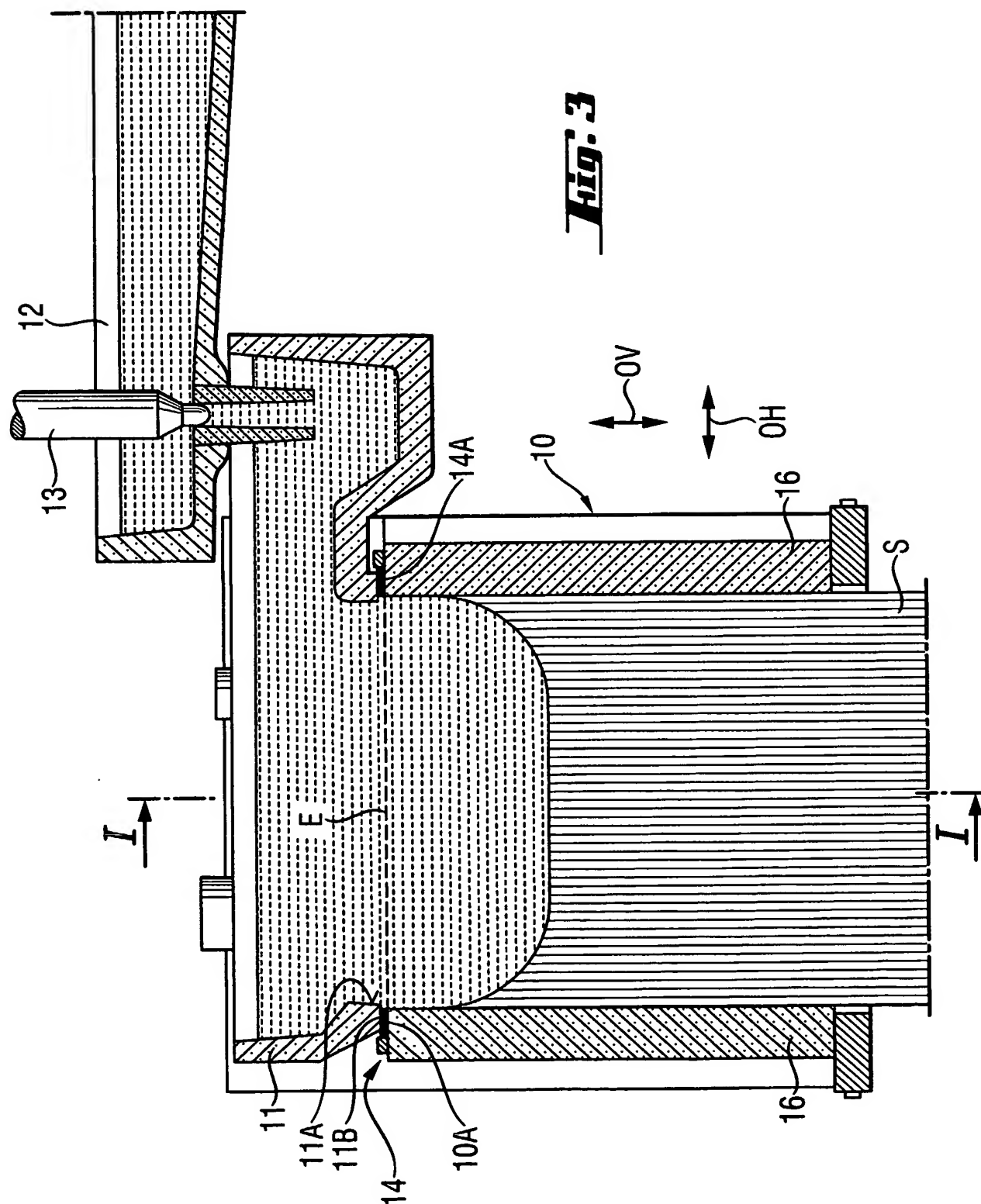
Fig. 2

Fig. 3



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Y	--	2-3,5
Y	US 3435881 A (W.H. SMITH ET AL), 1 April 1969 (01.04.69)	2-3,5
A	WO 0033991 A1 (CENTRE DE RECHERCHES METALLURGIQUES), 15 June 2000 (15.06.00), abstract	1-6

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	GB 2034218 A (FRIED. KRUPP GESELLSCHAFT MIT BESCHRÄNKTER HAFTUNG), 4 June 1980 (04.06.80), abstract --	4
A	US 3905418 A (LEONARD WATTS), 16 Sept 1975 (16.09.75), column 2, line 42 - column 4, line 16, figure 2 -- -----	1-6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent members

30/12/02

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